Yi-Hsuan (Katie) Tsai

Elizabeth Montoya

Community Resource

**Arboretum**

Seattle Japanese Garden and Pacific Connections Garden

Where: 2300 Arboretum Drive East Seattle, WA 98112  
Cost: Arboretum free, Japanese Gardens have a special school price: with one adult paid entrance ($6) 5 students can go in free.

Contact: (206) 543-8800

There is a beautiful Japanese Garden located in the UW Botanical Gardens at the Washington Park Arboretum, in the heart of Seattle. This is a great resource for younger elementary grades. It includes 3 ½ acres of a formal garden designed and constructed under the supervision of world-renowned Japanese garden designer Juki Iida in 1960. It also includes a Koi Pond and a Japanese Tea House. This resource can be used in science and it can be tied in to Environmental Education while being Culturally Responsive.

Throughout the year, the gardens hold multiple Japanese celebrations. The gardens are closed in the winter, but both fall and spring are amazing times to visit. In the fall, students will be able to observe the changing of the trees as they are preparing themselves for winter. In the spring, students would be able to observe the budding of the flowers. This garden is beautiful and can be used to explore many different trees and flowers. Students are also able to feed the Koi in the pond.

Location and contact: 1075 Lake Washington Blvd E, Seattle WA 98112, (206) 684-4725

Hours: 10am - 4pm

Close to the Japanese Gardens, within the Arboretum, there is a Pacific Connections Garden. Students would be able to explore many different plants from all over the world. In this garden, students will find amazing plants from five countries connected by the Pacific Ocean. Students will see alpine bottlebrush from the boggy peat lands of Mt. Kosciusco, Australia's tallest peak. Experience a wonderful array of hardy fuchsias from Chile. Compare a fern native to East Asia to one from the Himalayas. Admire the broad, sword like leaves of Phormium 'Maori Sunrise', one of a dozen species of New Zealand flax on display. Appreciate the vast scale of Cascadia's plants, from the tiny blooms of the inside-out flower to the immense trunk of a western red cedar. These and many more plants are found in the meadow, gardens, and forests that make up this twelve-acre garden. The foundation also supports many the children’s education programs at arboretum, such as teach students about a array of topics including wetland ecology and the life cycles of trees and plants, forest ecology, native plants, and plant biology.

Location and contact: Across Lake Washington Blvd. from the Japanese Garden, 206-543-8616

Hours: Daily from dawn to dusk